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Articles in Today's Clips

Tuesday, October 10, 2006

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J.E.T. PROGRAM TOPIC AT NATIONAL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

Gongwer News Service

October 9, 2006

Michigan's Jobs, Education and Training program, which is set up to provide welfare recipients further training and job development expertise, will be discussed during the upcoming National Governors Association Center for Best Practices meeting, the Department of Human Services has announced.

Donald Mussen, acting director of Human Services' Family Support Programs, which coordinates JET's implementation, will be among the panelists for "Setting a New Course for State Welfare Programs" on Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

"Don Mussen will carry our message to a national audience about where we are headed and how we project the JET initiative will help Michigan meet federal employment standards," DHS Director Marianne Udow said.



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Published October 10, 2006

Hollands' tears a ruse, prosecutors try to show

Accused couple begged on TV for son's return

By Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

What's next

- Lisa Holland's trial continues today before Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield. Her husband, Tim Holland, could take the stand this afternoon, prosecutors said late Monday. He is expected to testify against his wife. A state police forensic scientist will continue testifying in the morning.

Clinging to her husband's arm, Lisa Holland tearfully begged for her missing son's return.

"We just want him home," she said in a July 2005 television interview. "It's just hard."

But on Monday, as prosecutors played that TV interview in court, they tried to show that the statements of Lisa Holland and her husband, Tim, were a ruse.

The Williamston woman is charged with murder and child abuse in the death of her adopted 7-year-old son, Ricky. Her husband, Tim Holland, has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and could testify as early as today, prosecutors said. The trial is in its fourth week.

Tim Holland reported Ricky missing on July 2, 2005, sparking a massive nine-day search, during which the Hollands were interviewed several times by local media and pleaded for the boy's return.

But in a Jan. 26, 2006, interview with detectives played last week, Lisa Holland gave two versions about what happened to Ricky, who at the time was still considered missing.

Early in the 5 1/2-hour interview, Lisa Holland talked about how the boy possibly escaped through his bedroom window.

Later, she said her husband might have killed Ricky and taken his body out of the house.

One day later, on Jan. 27, Tim Holland led authorities to Ricky's remains in a marshlike rural area near Dansville.

He said during a plea hearing last month that his wife told him she killed Ricky with a hammer.

Focus of defense

Lisa Holland's co-counsel, Mike Nichols, focused Monday on his client's statement during the interview that she would do anything to keep her kids. Earlier testimony revealed she was concerned her children were about to be placed with Tim Holland's family.

Tim Holland also described years of abuse of Ricky by Lisa that he admitted not trying to prevent.

Also Monday, Ingham County sheriff's Detective Brian Valentine described several of the items seized in a Sept. 6, 2005, search of the Hollands' home.

Among them was a Valentine's Day card from Lisa's father addressed to all of the children except Ricky.

Valentine also testified police found four prescription bottles for Ricky - filled in August or November 2004 - still containing more than half of the pills.

Ricky diagnosed

A child psychiatrist has testified that he diagnosed Ricky with several conditions, including attention - deficit (hyperactivity) disorder and bipolar disorder.

The psychiatrist, Dr. Aurif Abedi, testified he last saw Ricky on July 9, 2004, which also was the boy's last documented visit to any medical professional, according to insurance records.

Abedi said he would be concerned about someone with Ricky's problems not being treated.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or kgrasha@lsj.com.

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Published October 9, 2006

Holland jurors view search footage, news clips

Midday update

By Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

Jurors in the Lisa Holland murder trial watched a video of the Sept. 6, 2005 police search of the Holland home this morning.

Police seized a pickup truck and a minivan, a computer, and several documents. They also confiscated prescription medication bottles of Ricky Holland's.

The Williamston woman is charged with murder and child abuse in 7-year-old Ricky's July 2005 death. Her husband, Tim Holland, has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and could testify as early as Friday. The trial is in its fourth week.

Jurors also watched a video of the Hollands talking to the media during the search for Ricky in July 2005.

Ricky was originally reported missing by his parents over the July 4 holiday.

In one clip Lisa Holland is crying on her husband's shoulder saying, "We just want him home. It's just hard."

Testimony continues this afternoon.

Read more on this story in Tuesday's Lansing State Journal.

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Published October 9, 2006

Lisa Holland trial recap

Lansing State Journal

Related articles:

- [Ricky Holland case](#)

Week 1, Sept. 18-22:

- In opening arguments, prosecutors say the case against Lisa Holland is about manipulation, deception and concealment. Defense attorneys counter the prosecution's key witness, Tim Holland, is not credible and his guilty plea was intended solely to protect himself.
- A Jackson County social worker testifies that in February 2001, Ricky said Lisa Holland tied him up at night. The social worker filed a report with Child Protective Services, but the report was not substantiated.
- Jackson school officials testify the Ricky they knew was not the same boy described and often disparaged by Lisa Holland.
- Testimony also reveals Ricky was removed from elementary school by his parents after it was determined he did not qualify for the special education services.

Week 2, Sept. 25-29:

- Investigators found tiny blood stains in several rooms of Tim and Lisa Holland's Williamston home, a state police forensic scientist testifies.
- A new portrait of Lisa Holland emerges in court: A loving mother who frequently called her family physician with child-rearing questions. But testimony also revealed a doctor last saw Ricky on Sept. 20, 2002.
- Lisa Holland's hairdresser testifies that as hundreds of people searched for Ricky in early July 2005, Holland told her "she just needed to go on with her life."
- A Williamston neighbor who lived across the street from the Hollands describes an incident in May 2005 when he found Ricky in his kitchen. "They don't want me anymore," the neighbor testifies Ricky said.

Week 3, Oct. 2-5

- A former Ingham County Jail inmate testifies Lisa Holland told her Ricky made her angry, so she threw a hammer at the boy's head. She then picked it up and hit Ricky again.
- A nurse at Ricky's Jackson elementary school testifies she reported suspected abuse to Child Protective Services at least twice.
- A second jail inmate testified Lisa Holland confessed to killing Ricky. But Holland's defense attorneys focus on how Tim Holland lied to investigators several times in the case, including in a

Jan. 27 statement to police during which he told authorities Lisa killed Ricky by striking him with a hammer.

- A video recorded interview of Lisa Holland talking with police is played for the jury, during which Lisa speculated her husband might tell police that she hit Ricky and that he then fell into a wall.
- A weekend interview with Tim Holland yielded new information about how Ricky died, prosecutors said. As a result, a forensic pathologist is expected to update the boy's cause of death. The revelation led the judge to postpone the trial a day.

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October 10, 2006

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SPECIAL REPORT
ARCHIVE

Mother sentenced for stabbing son, 2

October 9, 2006 - 4:26PM



PAW PAW (NEWS 3) - A Decatur woman who police say stabbed her son and then set a home on fire was sentenced today to between 5 and 15 years in prison for child abuse.

Angel Gipson's family has said she needs mental help, not jail time.

Police said Gipson was sitting next to her injured 2-year-old son outside of her mother's burning home when emergency personnel arrived in January. Police say she admitted to setting the fire intentionally.

The child had to undergo surgery following the attack. He has since recovered from the stab wounds.

Gipson was found guilty in May of child abuse in the first degree.

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Longtime foster mother tries to "unadopt" teen

LORTON, Va. A Virginia state lawmaker says a woman's petition to "unadopt" her troubled 15-year-old son isn't what it seems "at first blush."

Longtime foster mother, Helen Briggs, says she didn't know her adoptive son's history with abuse and mental illness until he molested two younger children. And she claims adoption caseworkers violated state policy when they told her only that the child was "hyperactive."

The boy's court designation as "sexual predator" would have kept Briggs from having other foster children -- or her own grandchildren -- in her home. So, she says she wants to dissolve the adoption.

But records obtained by The Washington Post show some caseworkers believe Briggs may only be trying to get out of child support payments she's been required to make since the boy was returned to foster care.

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KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

Candidates both say they'll help schools

Monday, October 09, 2006

By Judy Putnam

Gazette Lansing Bureau

LANSING -- Republican Dick DeVos wants to be an education governor. Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm says she already is one.

That's where their similarities on the issue pretty much end.

DeVos, 50, a West Michigan businessman with a longtime interest in education, has frequently criticized public schools for failing children, particularly poor kids. But he says he's a reform advocate, not a public-school critic.

DeVos favors privatization of public-school services such as busing and food service. He supports additional charter schools. He created a flap last month when he told a reporter that he supports the teaching of intelligent design along with evolution.

What's more visible -- and controversial -- is his leadership of a failed voucher campaign in 2000, which would have amended the Michigan Constitution to allow vouchers of \$3,000 for students stuck in academically failing schools to attend private schools.

Although he has said repeatedly that vouchers are a dead issue in Michigan, a political-action committee he started in 2003 still supports provoucher candidates in other states.

His wife, Betsy, directs the Grand Rapids-based PAC, called All Children Matter.

In contrast, Granholm, 47, is backed by the powerful Michigan Education Association, the state's largest teachers union, which heatedly opposes vouchers, privatization and additional charter schools. Granholm says intelligent design can be taught in a comparative-religion or current-affairs course but not in a science class.

Also, rather than offer alternative school settings for students in low-achieving schools, Granholm has offered more help to troubled schools, such as training coaches to help teachers and an annual principals academy to boost achievement at those schools.

The Michigan Department of Education said 163 state schools this fall came off the federal list of schools not making academic progress. Many had spent years on the list.

Granholm also established family-resource centers at 39 schools, in which caseworkers from the Department of Human Services work in the schools instead of state offices.

"I consider myself an education governor, proudly so, and we're going to continue to drive education policy in a way that drives the transformation of our economy," the governor said in a phone interview with Booth Newspapers last week.

Resources to the classroom

Her challenger says he, too, will focus on education.

"I'll be an education governor that will put the resources where they will serve our children the best," DeVos said in a telephone interview. "Moving resources to the classroom has got to be something that we get into the business of doing."

DeVos cites one federal study showing too many education dollars going to administration, while Granholm cites another statistic that Michigan's administration costs are below the national average.

Greg McNeilly, DeVos' campaign manager, criticized Granholm for midyear cuts in K-12 per-pupil spending her first two years.

"She's the most anti-public-education governor we've seen in a generation," McNeilly said. "Dick DeVos will not do that. He will not cut K-12."

Granholm ordered an across-the-board cut just weeks after taking office because revenues were not coming in as predicted. In her second year, school funds were again cut after revenues lagged. But last year, per-pupil spending increased by \$175. In the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, it jumped \$210.

McNeilly especially criticized cuts in higher education. The budget that pays for Michigan's 15 public universities and for financial aid, for example, is down 7.2 percent this year, from \$1.9 billion in 2002, according to the House Fiscal Agency. As a result, average tuition jumped by 28 percent in Granholm's first three budget years.

Granholm said she had few choices.

"When I got here, we had to cut everything in sight in order to grapple with the largest deficit that any governor had to grapple with in the history of the state," she said.

Granholm says it is hypocritical of the Republican Party to criticize her, because the GOP previously controlled the House, Senate and governor's office.

"This is entirely what I inherited," she said. "It is utterly preposterous, especially coming from a campaign that wants to slash further the business taxes."

DeVos will increase spending on higher education, McNeilly said, finding the money in other areas of state government, such as Medicaid.

Granholm points to her plan to increase the \$3,000 Merit Award to \$4,000 and award it after two years of college instead of after high school. GOP lawmakers have opposed that change.

Better-prepared workers

While neither candidate has unveiled a detailed plan for education in the next four years, both are focused on getting students better prepared for the work force.

DeVos devotes a few pages of his economic plan to education, saying he will beef up spending on higher education to combat high tuition, encourage students to get college credits in high school and provide incentives to produce more math and science teachers. He also supports merit pay for teachers.

Chuck Wilbur, Granholm's education adviser, says the governor will build on what she's started, particularly new high school graduation requirements and high school reform through a new pilot project that creates six "early-college" programs in high schools to quickly funnel students into medical jobs. The governor also will keep pushing recommendations from the Cherry Commission, a broad-based, bipartisan panel that recommended ways to double the number of college grads over the next decade.

Senate Education Chairman Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, said the media is exaggerating DeVos' role in supporting vouchers. He said he and DeVos share a businessman's view of education -- improve it, no matter whose toes you step on.

Plus, Kuipers said, DeVos' sincerity is clear.

"He puts his money where his mouth is," Kuipers said. "His record speaks volumes about how much he cares about getting kids a good education."

Dick and Betsy DeVos, for example, have spent nearly \$1 million over the past few years to provide scholarships for poor students to attend private K-12 schools.

Still, Democrats and teachers unions are unlikely to let the voucher issue go.

Granholtz said vouchers would help some students but hurt everybody else by draining funding for public schools.

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ourMidland.com
from the Midland Daily News

10/09/2006

Agency works to end domestic violence

By [Angela E. Lackey](#)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a series of stories about United Way agencies. The UW campaign kicked off Sept. 15 and concludes Nov. 2. For more information, visit www.unitedwaymidland.org.

Domestic violence doesn't only affect the victim. The children watch and grow up thinking it's OK to hit. Then the cycle continues.

In 1976, a group of concerned citizens formed the Council on Domestic Violence. Shelterhouse, a place where domestic violence victims and their children could stay and rebuild their lives, opened in 1980.

The agency merged in 1985 with the Center Against Sexual Assault. It became an United Way agency in the 1990s; it received \$95,000 in UW funding last year. Executive Director Sharon Mortensen said the agency gets UW funding from both Midland and Gladwin counties; each county's money is used for that county's programs.

The agency now is called the Shelterhouse/Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, although most people just call it Shelterhouse. Mortensen said the agency does shelter people. But it also does so much more.

"We have this incredible breadth of resources," she said.

The agency provides court liaison services, where a staff person works with a domestic violence victim through an often intimidating court system. For example, the liaison will help the victim get a personal protection order, or PPO, which protects the victim from contact with the abuser.

Agency advocates explain rights to victims, including the victim's right to not have an abuser show up at his or her workplace. The advocate also explains these rights to employers as needed.

Two major programs are the children's program and the Alternatives to Violence.

In the children's program, kids learn that violence is not acceptable. They learn what a healthy relationship looks like.

The alternatives program is for men convicted of domestic violence. It is a six-month program, and most men are there by court order. The men learn how not to use violence.

Mortensen said the agency's programs, except the alternatives one, are free of charge. The alternatives program is paid on a sliding scale fee. For more information, call 835-6771 or toll free at 877-216-6383.

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White Lake Beacon

Posted: 10-9-2006

Lunch series at Every Woman's Place

In honor of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Every Woman's Place is holding an open house and lunch break series on domestic violence throughout the month.

The lunch break series continues on Oct. 18 and 25 from 12:15-1 p.m. at Every Woman's Place, 1221 W. Laketon, in Muskegon.



On Oct. 18, the topic will be "Dating Violence." In a recent study commissioned by Liz Claiborne, Inc. on teen dating, 17% of teens, ages 16-18, said they have been threatened with physical harm to avoid a breakup. Webster House Youth staff will help those who attend the luncheon recognize abusive behavior and what a parent of a victim can do about it.

On Oct. 25, the topic is "The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children." Research estimates that 3.3-10 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year. As a result, children often display aggressive behavior, depression and anxiety, low self-esteem, poor academic performance and symptoms consistent with post traumatic stress disorder.

An open house will be held on Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Every Woman's Place. Public tours will be conducted of the shelter. The Clothesline Project, consisting of hundreds of t-shirts created by victims and their families that reveal the terror and sadness of domestic abuse, will on display.

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Victims get new housing

By NICOLE GERRING
Times Herald

A recent grant and an anonymous donation will allow Safe Horizons to offer more housing options for domestic-violence victims.

The agency, which operates a domestic-violence shelter in Port Huron, last month received a \$450,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and a \$112,000 donation from an anonymous local resident.

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼



Combined, the money will pay for buying and renovating four homes in Port Huron.

Low-income victims of domestic violence and their children will be able to rent the homes. The amount of rent paid will be adjusted to match each family's income.

Victims of domestic violence often must choose between returning to a violent household and establishing their own household. Moving out may be impossible if victims don't have money to support themselves and their children, said Jenny

Schultz, executive director of Safe Horizons.

"A lot of batterers sabotage economic stability," she said. "If she leaves to get away from him, she may have nothing.

"Economic independence for victims of domestic violence gives women a way to leave an abusive relationship."

Safe Horizons now has a program that pays part or all of the rent for low-income and unemployed domestic-violence victims living in rental units. The new venture will mark the first time Safe Horizons owns and controls housing outside its shelter.

The organization has bought a two-bedroom home and is searching for three additional units - another two-bedroom and two, three-bedrooms.

Safe Horizons was one of six agencies in Michigan to receive a combined \$4 million in grants through the state's Domestic Violence Housing Initiative.



Jenny Schultz

AT A GLANCE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- About 100 people a year in Michigan die from domestic-violence-related homicide. About 100 people a year in Michigan die from domestic-violence-related homicide.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the cost of domestic violence exceeds \$5.8 billion annually.

WHOM TO CALL

SAFE HORIZONS

- For more information about the Safe Horizons initiative or other programs, call 810-437-7777.
- Safe Horizons is accepting photos for a domestic violence exhibit. People interested may submit photos to kathyb@safehorizonsmi.org.

Agencies can use the money to buy homes, build new homes, lease existing units or help people become homeowners.

- For details, call (810) 985-45

The state's housing development authority expects to create 70 housing units for domestic-violence survivors, said Lindsey Bishop, supportive-housing specialist in the authority's Detroit office.

"By creating more units of affordable, supportive housing we can rapidly move individuals in need of safe, stable, affordable housing into these units, greatly reducing the chance of them becoming homeless," she said.

In addition to providing the low-cost housing, Safe Horizons staff regularly will visit the tenants to provide connections with community resources, such as career counselors, financial managers and mental-health professionals, Schultz said.

m Contact Nicole Gerring at (810) 989-6270 or ngerring@gannett.com.

STORYCHAT

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No charge in Eminem case

Niece wasn't hurt, Hackel concludes

BY SHABINA S. KHATRI
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

October 10, 2006

Flaring tempers between Eminem and his niece at his estranged wife's Macomb Township home prompted a police investigation last month.

But officials said Monday no charges would be filed in the Sept. 24 incident, during which the rapper tapped his niece on the head for hanging up the telephone on him.

"There was no indication she was harmed or hurt in any way," Sheriff Mark Hackel said of the 13-year-old girl whose legal guardians are Eminem and his wife, Kim Mathers.

According to the Macomb County Sheriff's Office, Eminem went to the home after getting into an argument on the phone with his niece.

There, to get her attention, he tapped her on the side of the head, Hackel said.

Eminem said the two were arguing over the girl's "school clothing."

After he left the home, his niece described the incident to her grandmother, who called Mathers.

She called the police to file a domestic violence complaint, but the sheriff's and prosecutor's offices decided no charges were warranted.

Eminem, 33, filed for divorce in April, less than three months into his second marriage with Mathers, 31.

The case has been sent to a mediator. If it is not resolved, a trial is scheduled for Dec. 19.

A message left with Eminem's publicist's office on the matter was not returned

Contact **SHABINA S. KHATRI** at 586-469-8087 or skhatri@freepress.com.



Eminem: A clothing argument.

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IN OUR OPINION | NEGLECT IN CUSTODY: Don't Delay on Prison Health

October 10, 2006

Michigan House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, plans to appoint a special committee on prison health care in the next month. DeRoche says Corrections, along with the management of child protection in the Department of Human Services, is in chaos. The state shouldn't wait for an upcoming review of prison health care to wrap up in six months to start fixing the problems.

Failure to act soon, DeRoche says, could trigger more federal control over state prisons, and the \$280 million a year the Department of Corrections spends on medical and mental health care.

OK, it's an election season and anything a politician says is suspect. Still, whatever his motivation, DeRoche is on point. A Free Press editorial page investigation has shown that Michigan's prison health care system is dysfunctional and deadly. Delays in fixing it will mean more multimillion-dollar lawsuits, tighter federal regulation of the system, more unnecessary suffering and deaths, and more serious and costly medical conditions to treat in the state's nearly 50 prisons.

Corrections has been under a federal consent decree in a case called Hadix since 1985 to improve medical care and other conditions at state prisons in Jackson. Starting Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Richard Enslen in Kalamazoo will consider, in three days of hearings, motions by attorneys for Michigan prisoners to also put mental health care under federal oversight and to increase the authority of the court's independent medical monitor.

In August, Gov. Jennifer Granholm ordered an independent review of prison health care. The state will pick an outside agency to do it within a month. Granholm also said she supports restoring the Corrections ombudsman's office, as does DeRoche and another conservative Republican, Sen. Alan Cropsey of DeWitt, who heads the Senate Judiciary Committee.

That's all good, but bringing back the Legislature's ombudsman's office and completing the governor's independent review will take months. Granholm and the Legislature ought to act now by appointing an interim medical monitor or ombudsman to check into problems and allegations, provide some much needed oversight, and recommend changes.

Waiting until months after the election to act will cost the state lives and dollars and risk ceding control of Michigan's \$1.8-billion prison system.

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Pine Rest Unveils \$4.9 Million Teen Center

, , 20

By HERB WOERPEL

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services unveiled a new \$4.9 million, 40 bed, teen-locked residential building Thursday at its main campus at 300 68th St.

The 24,000-square-foot building features four pods, two for boys and two for girls, which will house 10 teens each. The pods are complete with private sleeping quarters and bathrooms, integrated classrooms, a leisure room and dining commons. All areas are secured with state-of-the-art sound and video surveillance. The building will help serve the growing demand for psychiatric treatment for 12 -18 year old troubled teens.

Senator Bill Hardiman was very proud of Pine Rest's accomplishments and their new facilities.

"This program is about a new life for the youth that have been through some very difficult times and I'm very pleased. This building will also create good jobs that are needed in Michigan right now," Hardiman said.

The typical teen that will be treated in the new residential buildings is from the juvenile justice system and is a dual ward of the state, from the delinquency and abuse' and neglect' wards. In 2005, the Center for Psychiatric Residential Services locked program had 18,031 days of care, up from 17,002 days of care in 2004. The numbers are sure to climb with the addition of the new residential building.

"This expansion of the teen residential services at Pine Rest enables us to treat these kids in a better suited environment, to meet their challenges and difficulties in an atmosphere that fosters support," said Al Jansen, corporate director of CPRS. "Where teens like this previously had to be sent out of state to receive the level of care they needed, Pine Rest is now able to give them that care."

The construction process has taken about six months and although is still not fully completed, the teens will begin moving in tomorrow.

"We've been working on it for about six months," said Pam Mettler, Director of Marketing & Community Relations. "It has been interesting to watch the equipment slowly disappear and watch the parking spaces become available and the building take shape."

Pine Rest was founded in 1910. Situated on a 200-acre wooded campus in Grand Rapids, they have one of the nation's largest staff of psychiatrists working with nurses, psychologists, social workers, educators, and clergy. This includes over 35 psychiatrists and physicians, more than 35 fully-licensed psychologists, over 40 limited-licensed psychologists, more than 115 licensed masters level social workers, plus 10 physician assistants and nurse practitioners. Pine rest is one of the state's largest organizations providing a continuum of services for all ages.

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